



News Release

For Immediate Release:
December 5, 2003

Influenza Vaccine Still Available in Utah

Public Health Officials Continue to Assess Supply

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The influenza season began early this year and is affecting more people than usual. As described in the accompanying CDC press release, there is a shortage of vaccine in the United States. The good news is that many Utahns have already been vaccinated.

Public health officials encourage those at highest risk for complications from influenza to get vaccinated. (See today's attached CDC news release or <http://health.utah.gov/els/flu> for specific high-risk groups.) The Utah Department of Health, along with local health departments and private providers, have been monitoring the supply of influenza vaccine in Utah for the past several weeks. The most current supply evaluation indicates that vaccine continues to be available in Utah, but supply is limited and some local shortages may exist. High-risk individuals are encouraged to check on vaccine availability with their health care provider. Healthy individuals between the ages of 5 and 49 should consider getting the Flu Mist vaccine, which is more readily available.

To date, the Utah Department of Health has received reports of 1,031 influenza cases (lab confirmed and rapid testing combined numbers). Utah sentinel providers are reporting that 10 percent of their patients have an influenza-like-illness compared with last season's peak of 4 percent. For most recent information, visit <http://health.utah.gov/els/flu>. State total reports may vary with local reports due to reporting delays.

If your child has received the influenza vaccine for the first time this year and is under age 9, the child should receive two doses of the vaccine. Public health officials continue to recommend that a second dose be given at least one month following the first dose. Advice for parents on when to seek treatment for sick children is also available on the above website.